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# A Good Choice

IT WILL BE NO sentimental journey back to the scenes of his youth when George F. Kennan returns to Moscow as ambassador of the United States.

For this experienced diplomat is no sentimentalist, if his evaluation of American foreign policies in his book, "50 Years of American Diplomacy," is the measure of his stature.

He is so different from his predecessors in the American embassy in Moscow that there may be real hope in his appointment, if he is allowed to exercise the real function of an ambassador and not compelled to act merely as a messenger boy.

Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and Admirals Kirk and Standley were something more than that, of course, but another appointment of the Joseph P. Davies type could well be disastrous for America's sovereign dignity and power.

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FOR KENNAN is no utopian on another "Mission to Moscow" with a pack of concessions on his back. But neither is he one who thinks that the way to live in the same world with Russia is for us to play God and change Russia into our own image. And neither does he think that the way to deal with Russia is with an atom bomb.

Here is a man who has made it his business to learn the nature of the Russian people, how they were erupted from the tyranny of the czars to the more efficient, more brutal tyranny of the commissars.

He has faith in the people of Russia as human beings, but he has no illusions about them or their government.

Neither has he any illusions about the ability or destiny of America to make the "world safe for democracy," or to keep "the open door in China," or to raise the living standards of billions of people.

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THERE IS ONE THING he is positive of, and that is that the object of American foreign policy must be to safeguard the interests of the United States and the liberty of Americans.

It's a refreshing viewpoint.

And the Russian masters, who are just as hardheaded in their aim to protect the interests of their own empire, are sure to respect an American who stands for America.

It's a pity Kennan, who devoted his career to the study of Russia from the standpoint of America's best interests, was not allowed to advise Roosevelt and Truman instead of Hiss and Hopkins.

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